

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GABORO 00882 301414Z
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T GABORONE 0882

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV RH UK US BC
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PRESIDENT KHAMA ON FRONT LINE MEETING

REF: A) GABORONE 854 B) GABORONE 793

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE NEARLY AN HOUR'S TALK ON NAMIBIA, PRESIDENT KHAMA TOOK INITIATIVE TO PROLONG THE MEETING DESCRIBED REF A, BY RAISING SUBJECT OF RHODESIA. IN REVIEWING BACKGROUND AND SUBSTANCE OF DAR FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS (FLP) MEETING, KHAMA SAID PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) HAD MADE CONCESSIONS AND "WOULD ACCEPT" RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S (RESCOM) AUTHORITY AND UN PRESENCE AS DESCRIBED IN ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT KHAMA INTRODUCED SUBJECT BY NOTING THAT
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GOB HAD DECIDED "SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE" FOLLOWING UK HICOM TURNER'S AND MY PREVIOUS MEETING WITH HIM ON RHODESIA (GABORONE 742). AS RESULT, MOGWE AND LEGWAILA WERE SENT AROUND TO LINE UP FLP MEETING WITH PF (REF A). GOB THEN LEARNED THAT PRESIDENTS KAUNDA AND MACHEL WERE MEETING AND "SAME THOUGHT" OCCURRED TO THEM. THE DAR MEETING WAS RESULT FOR WHICH PRESIDENT KHAMA

(OBVIOUSLY WITH SOME PRIDE) FELT HE WAS CO-RESPONSIBLE. KHAMA ADDED THAT DAR MEETING WAS "THE BEST" HE HAD EVER ATTENDED AND PROCEEDED TO OUTLINE PF CONCESSIONS MADE UNDER FLP PRESSURE, E.G., AFTER FLPS HAD REVIEWED THE MANY PRECEDENTS, PF WAS BROUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR THE COLONIAL POWER TO HAVE CONTROL OF DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY. IN ADDITION, KHAMA SAID PF AGREED TO NEED FOR UN FORCE.

3. SINCE MOGWE'S REPORT TO CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ (REF A) HAD DESCRIBED PF REACTION AS FALLING SHORT OF AGREEMENT, I.E., PROMISING TO "REFLECT", HICOM TURNER AND I EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT LEARNING OF FLP'S SUCCESS IN OBTAINING PF CONCESSIONS ON THESE KEY POINTS. MOGWE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PF HAD NOT ACTUALLY AGREED BUT WAS STILL CONSIDERING ITS RESPONSE. PRES. KHAMA OVERRULED HIM SAYING PF HAD IN FACT AGREED TO RESCOM AND UN ROLES; IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS AGREEMENT, KHAMA RECALLED, THAT FLPS HAD AUTHORIZED NYERERE TO BRIEF UK HICOM AND AMBASSADORS SPAIN AND YOUNG. TURNER AND I NOTED THAT KHAMA'S CONCLUSIONS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ECHOED SUBSEQUENTLY IN PRESIDENT NYERERE'S REVIEW OF THE MEETING INDICATING THAT PF WAS AT LEAST PRIVATELY COMMITTED TO RESCOM AUTHORITY AND UN PRESENCE.

4. WITH THIS BACKGROUND, KHAMA GOT TO HIS POINT WHICH
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WAS TO ASK WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN US OR UK REACTION TO FLP MEETING. I SAID I HAD RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH UK TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS HAD BEGUN, HAVING IN MIND STATE 70945. HICOM TURNER SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY KHAMA'S REPORT ON RESULTS OF DAR MEETING. THEY REPRESENTED A STRIKING CONTRAST TO COMMUNIQUE WHICH HAD CAST GLOOM OVER EASTER MONDAY. KHAMA REPLIED SEVERAL OF HIS PEOPLE HAD ALSO WAVED THE COMMUNIQUE AT HIM WHEN HE RETURNED FROM DAR MEETING AND EXPRESSED ALARM. KHAMA SAID HE TOLD THEM COMMUNIQUE WAS "FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION" AND NOT TO PAY ATTENTION TO IT. IT DID NOT REFLECT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN "WORKED OUT" BEHIND THE SCENES.

5. COMMENT: THE ABOVE MEETING WAS HELD AND REPORT DRAFTED BEFORE RECEIPT OF LUSAKA 1057 WHICH QUITE RIGHTLY REFLECTS WHAT MOGWE EARLIER TOLD CONGRESSMAN SOLAR. MOGWE'S COMMENTS SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF KHAMA'S STATEMENTS REPORTED ABOVE WHICH INDICATE HIS CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT FLPS BELIEVE THEY HAVE PF COMMITMENT ON BASIC CONCESSIONS OUTLINED ABOVE. IN VIEW OF KHAMA'S FIRM REACTION, I AGREE WITH STEVE LOW

(LUSAKA 1057, PARA 4) THAT WE CAN AND SHOULD PRESS
FLPS TO DELIVER THE PF ON THESE POINTS.
NORLAND

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